GRAM SEVAK

VOL. V. DECEMBER 1958. NO. 5.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
22 JAN 1959
RURAL

The more you put into the soil, the more you will get out of it

मजदूर मंजिल

ग्राम सेवक

GRAM SEVAK

Agrahayana-Pausa 1880

Vol. 5 December 1958 No. 5

CONTENTS

What is Truth?—*Vinobaji*	1
The new role ..	2
He who levels his land.. ..	3
Meet the trained Gram Sahayaks—*Jacob Samuel*	5
Story of four Villages ..	6
Silo-cum-Elevator at Hapur	8
Small Industries in U.P. ..	10
A day on the Railways ..	11
President's Awards ..	14
Training Centres for Handicrafts ..	17
How to organise a Young Farmers' Club —*Prem Parkash Singh* ..	18
Get to work—*Satya Narayan Purohit*	20
Children and Art ..	22
Paper Manufacture in Kashmir —*I. M. Bhatnagar*	24

Editor : D. Raghavan

Asstt. Editor M. K. Rao

Cover Design : Romesh Chandra

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 n.P.

Annual : Rs. 1.25

All enquiries regarding agency and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-8. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Gram Sevak*, Ministry of Community Development, New Delhi.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
22 JAN 1959
RURAL EXTENSION T...

What is Truth?

Vinobaji

We, in India, have evolved a society with the most ancient traditions. We have stored up vast experience. It is our faith, born out of this experience, that Truth is the greatest of values. Truth is essential for social communication and mutual co-operation. 'Speak the Truth; Act according to Law' are the commandments of our life. Our whole history, in the past, was based on truth. Ramachandra is worshipped as the incarnation of Truth. With us it is an article of faith that "there is no greater virtue than Truth."

But, despite all this, we do not conduct ourselves truthfully. How difficult will it be to find a trader who does not use untruth is his trade ? Even in the matters of matrimonial alliances untruth pervades. In matters of diplomacy, untruth prevails unabashed. So, in contemporary life, untruth marches on triumphantly.

It all happens because our whole social structure is founded on one value,—the value of money. So long as human society recognised no other value than that of labour, men were truthful. But ever since men pursued this value of money everything is perverted. Money is the greatest liar. The same rupee some day brings you four seers of grain, but the next day it gives you only two seers and another day it may again give five seers. So long as we exchange goods with the help of this deceptive medium, all transactions will per force be false. Production of things requires the expenditure of labour. But, this simple truth is lost when it is so easy to print currency-notes.

If we want to effect a change in all this, we must revolutionise our whole economic system. Society must be constructed not on money but on labour. Then what can a thief take away from a village. He cannot lay his hands on coins. There will be milk and grain, fruits and vegetables, but there shall be no coins. A thief can run away with a wad of notes worth Rs. 10,000 in his pocket; but he will have to bring in 50 carts to take away grain worth the same amount. So let us have abundance in our villages but only a few coins. The village will be a co-operative commonwealth in which all things are for the enjoyment of all.

THE NEW ROLE

THE RECENT meeting of the National Development Council issued a clear directive that panchayats, co-operatives and the village schools must constitute the pivot round which all developmental work must revolve. The development of these three institutions for their integrated, comprehensive and total role in village development, consequently, is to be the major pre-occupation of the Community Development movement. The role of the government organization in future will be merely to promote these institutions, and their use as its sole agents for village development. The three institutions must more or less be co-terminus.

The meeting of the National Development Council was preceded by the staff conference of State Development Commissioners and the fourth meeting of the Central Council of Local Self-Government, the latter applying itself very earnestly to a study of the basic role that is to be played by the panchayat.

Functional Sub-Committees

The panchayat, which is the principal people's institution, according to the conclusions reached by the Central Council of Local Self-Government, is to be entrusted with the planning and execution of all developmental work at the village level. To involve the largest number of people in the programme the panchayat is to be assisted through the formation of functional sub-committees, associating voluntary organizations, such as farmers' forums, dastkar mandals, sahkari mandals, yuvak mandals, mahila mandals, etc., and also individuals with special knowledge and interest in any particular facet of the programme.

Resources from block budget as also from the various development departments and boards, are to be pooled at the block level for utilization through panchayats.

State Governments are to make an endeavour to ensure that all villages in their respective territories are served by panchayats by the end of the second Five Year Plan.

Size of Panchayats

The size of the panchayat is to be such that people forming the Gram Sabha are in their normal day-to-day work to be in touch with one another and form a compact, homogenous social unit. While ordinarily there should be one panchayat for every village, small contiguous villages may be grouped together, if necessary, to form a panchayat.

Arrangements have to be made for the training and orientation of all panchayat personel, i.e., panches, sarpanches, panchayat secretaries, block level panchayat extension officers and district panchayat officers. A programme in this respect is being drawn up by the Ministry of Community Development. Community Development in effect would thus be panchayat development.

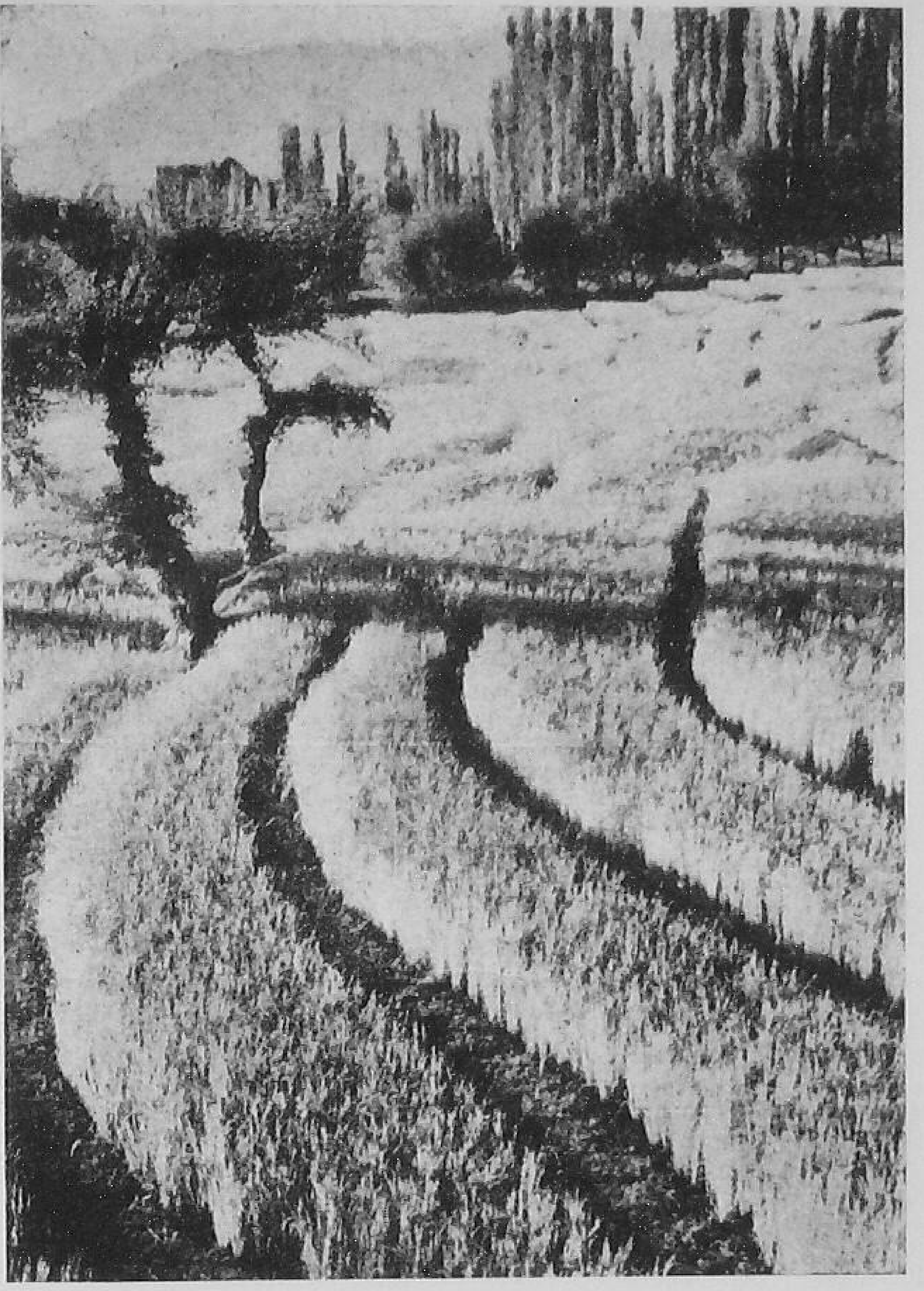
Training for B.D.C. Members

Village panchayats are not only to be established but they are to be assigned the proper role if they are to discharge their responsibilities efficiently. The risk of people's representatives making bona fide mistakes, it has been recognised, is worth taking, if the new programme of delegating authority is to be made a success. In this context, it is very important to ensure that the block development committee members are trained in the objectives and philosophy of Community Development programme and the day-to-day mechanics of its implementation.

Although the government organization has to play the initial role in the transmission of the philosophy of the movement to the people, it is essential that, to involve large masses of people, the non-official organizations should be brought into the picture. The non-official or allied institutions, which have been often called the "people's associates", would be institutions such as, for instance, the Sarva Seva Sangh, the Kasturba Trust, the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, the Ramkrishna Mission, the Servants of India Society, the Bharat Sevak Samaj, the Adimjati Seva Sangh, the Indian Co-operative Union, etc.

HE WHO LEVELS HIS LAND......

"He who levels his land becomes a rich man", was one of the remarks made by the local Inspector of Agriculture during his routine visit to the village, Imalia. It was a casual remark no doubt, but for the young, city-educated Ronaq Ali it served as the cue. Since his return to the village, to take over the management of his ancestral 24 acres, he was groping in darkness. He had come back to the village without completing his studies because his old father wanted him to see to the agriculture. Farming was something new to him. He was not prepared to follow the age-old methods, where one has to depend entirely on the mercy of rain-god for the success in agriculture. He was keen to make farming a profitable proposition, and was eager to apply most of the modern practices.



Terrace cultivation

Ronaq Ali levelled his land and sought further advice from the Agricultural Inspector. A deal was struck: Ronaq Ali would carry out all the advice given by the Agricultural Inspector on a one-acre plot and if the production went up he would extend improved practices to the entire farm.

An area was marked out for demonstration purposes; land was properly ploughed; seed bed prepared; improved variety of seed selected and line-sowing adopted; proper doses of compost, fertiliser and irrigation given and plant protection measures taken according to advice. At harvest time, a happy Ronaq Ali reaped twice the quantity of wheat than was ever obtained in that village.

That was only the beginning. The taste of success in the demonstration plot convinced Ronaq Ali about the superiority of the modern methods over the traditional ones. From that time onward he has been applying more and more of them in his fields, and wherever he is in difficulty, he takes the help of the Agricultural Department and the Agricultural Inspector to solve them. The result has been astounding. He produces only the improved varieties and that too in quantities never

known in the area. His produce is considered so good that the local seed store purchases all the grain he can spare for use as improved seed elsewhere.

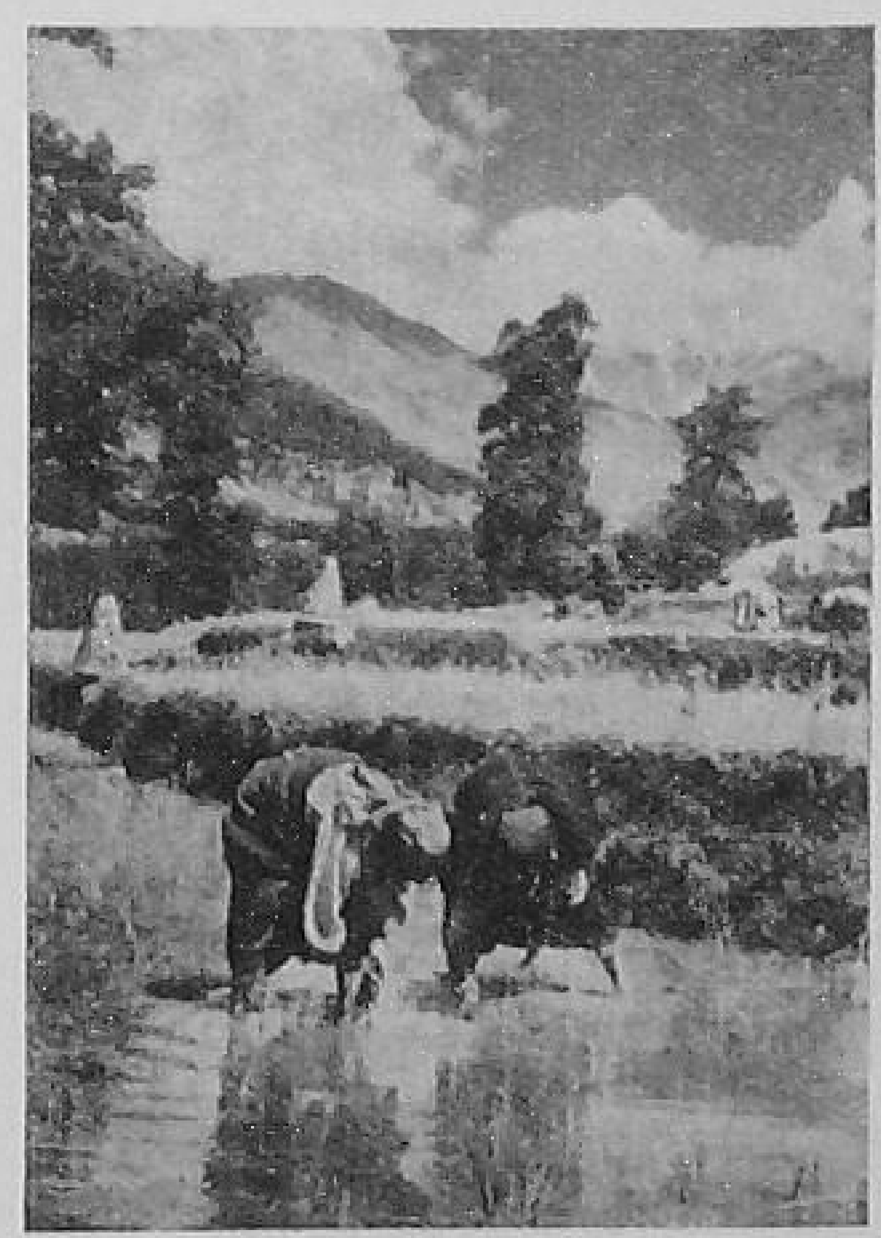
The story of his success has spread far and wide. Farmers from distant villages now come to Ronaq Ali's farm to see for themselves the secret of higher yields. When they come they have doubt writ large on their faces; when they go they are restless. Why could they not achieve what Ronaq Ali has achieved ? For many of them this is the first introduction to improved agricultural practices. On a rough estimate, about 60 per cent of the farmers in the neighbouring villages now use improved seed, fertilisers and compost. They have started taking plant protection and soil conservation measures.

How much assistance, financial or otherwise, did he get from the Government? The answer given by Ronaq Ali was a long lecture on self-help and self-reliance. The Government can, no doubt, supply fertiliser, improved seed and give such other facilities on payment but after all it is the farmer who has to make the best possible use of these things, he said. The most valuable assistance he got was in the shape of practical advice given by the Agricultural Inspector. "But for him I would have continued to be a poor struggling farmer trying to make both ends meet somehow," he said Recently, however, he got a subsidy of Rs. 1,800 for putting up a tubewell which is now providing irrigation to the neighbouring fields.

RABI CAMPAIGN

Ronaq Ali's field of activity has considerably widened. Besides working on his farm he has to meet the demands of his fellow cultivators seeking guidance on improved methods of agriculture. When contacted recently he was busy organising rabi production campaign in the area. A number of Gram Sahayaks have been trained who will adopt modern farm practices and will try to persuade at least ten others to do likewise. Similar campaigns were organised by them during the last rabi and kharif seasons.

With three of its progressive farmers acting as Gram Sahayaks, Imalia now boasts of a co-operative society and a model animal husbandry centre. It has got a good drainage system, and the general orderliness of things befitting a model village. Above all the name of the village has become synonymous with that of Ronaq Ali.



A rural scene : Kashmir

Meet the Trained Gram Sahayaks

Jacob Samuel

TIME THERE was when the Gramsahayaks' camps and the Gramsahayaks were targets of severe criticism. The Camps were a novel idea to begin with. Now the time has changed. The products of the camps—Gramsahayaks—are factors responsible for this changed outlook.

Gramsahayaks bridge the gap between the officers and the villagers. Bridges, as they are, they can spare no pains. They are strong and effective bridges. Our Gramsahayaks have proved this fact.

A morning in August. The orange-coloured morning sun peeped through the crevices of the thick dark clouds. Gloomy was the atmosphere. Hence the minds too. There came a messenger. A case of attack by a sporadic pest, *Army worm*, added thickness to the dark atmosphere. The report came from Puakode. The Gram Sevak had already plunged headlong in holding a Camp. Away he was. However he got the news. What can he do? He was helpless. Truly he was between "the Camp and the *Army worm*".

The Gram Sevak's aged bicycle assumed wings. It launched him to a Trained Gramsahayak's bedside. The situation was driven home to him. Shri Ramankutty Nair, (this is the name of the Trained Gramsahayak) made up his mind to take up cudgels against the pest. He girded his loins. He assumed all responsbility to wipe off the *Army worm*. The Gram Sevak flew back with peace of mind. Shri Ramankutty Nair approached his fellow Gramsahayaks. All of them agreed. Within a short time Shri Nair led a group of well-built enthusiastic villagers. They were Trained Gramsahayaks. They knew what to do. And they did it. There ensued a battle. Powerful and effective insecticides were applied against the enemy. The *Army worm* was easily wiped off. The Gramsahayaks saved 200 acres of paddy field. Are the Gramsahayaks useful?

Once our villagers were against preventive innoculation for cattle. We conducted Gramsahayaks camps as usual. And the attitude of the villagers has undergone a radical change. A few Trained Gramsahayaks volunteered for giving preventive mass innoculation. The villagers keenly watched the show. They expected something unusual. But, no more cattle died. Mass innoculation, at last, gained wide popularity. Formerly we approached them for mass innoculation. Now, they approach us!

Take another case. Shri Varghese, Chelakkara, was no firm believer in poultry development. Not only that; he was against it. Accidentally, he happened to be entangled in a Gramsahayak's camp. Animal husbandry and poultry development were the subjects for discussion. The man who conducted the discussion put in all his imagination in describing the several aspects of poultry development. Immunity was hands off with Shri Varghese. He became susceptible to poultry development.

A sort of enthusiasm crept in him. Weeks and months passed away. The 'Plymouth Rock' of Shri Varghese was in full bloom. It won him the First Prize! Where? In the State Cattle and Poultry Show at Palghat, held by Kerala State! A nice poultry unit is now his own. He is the fountain-head for quality birds and eggs. Yes, the incredible did happen. Shri Varghese is seen in the list of Trained Gramsahayaks.

Trained Gramsahayaks are an asset to a Block. They are seen at the helm of all public activities. What they do is copied by the villagers. Up-to-date information is transmitted through them. Through them flow in local contributions and co-operation.

Clubs, for Trained Gramsahayaks, if formed will be most effective institutions. Libraries should also be there to keep them abreast of the recent developments in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry. A trial will convince any one. Let us try.

STORY OF FOUR VILLAGES

THE story of successful villages is often the story of individuals, quite often very simple and unassuming persons, who act as catalytic agents in community development and, by their initiative and enterprise, give push and direction to the aspirations and constructive urges of a whole village.

To illustrate the point, take four villages in the Punjab and Rajasthan. Both in size and importance, these are small villages, as quiet and unobtrusive as only an Indian village can be. Physically, they look different from one another; but, from what happens in each case, a strikingly identical pattern emerges.

First, there is some sort of a challenge for the whole village, a new calamity to be fought or a problem to be faced; then, as if from nowhere, an individual rises to meet this challenge with his own initiative and effort, and, finally, the whole village is stirred into action.

To start with the smallest of these villages, Rajgarh is a really small village near Patiala. Its 40 houses contain only 272 souls. Life in this village was going on peacefully—as it has done for centuries—when suddenly, in the wake of the heavy monsoons, the floods came. The rains beat mercilessly and the water ate into the foundations of the mud huts. The walls caved in and in less than the week there were only mounds of earth to indicate where the village had once stood.

While everyone wailed and cursed the heavens for this calamity, Kehar Singh thought that something needed to be done. He contacted Block Development Officer to find out what help the Government could give. A loan was quick in coming. Thirty-two bighas of common land were allotted to the villagers on high ground away from the waters. Kehar Singh raised a small force of workers from the village itself. In five days the ground was cleared and a new village began to rise. Within a few months a neat and clean colony of 40 houses was raised. With the new village, came amenities which were never known before; a dispensary,

a school, a 30-feet wide street and electric poles to bring electricity from Nangal.

It was a calamity of a different sort which visited the hundred and odd families, mostly of Regars, Gujars and Muslims, who constitute the population of Bawaicha in Rajasthan. It came in the form of dacoits who made away with whatever the villagers possessed, including a sum of Rs. 20,000 specially collected for building a new school for the village. "Shall we ever be able to build the school now?" the villagers lamented. "Why not?" asked Samand Khan. He had a determined supporter in Piru Lal, the Sarpanch, who decided that the school would simply have to be built. Their determination did not fail to inspire the villagers. Collections were started all over again and within a year the school building was ready.

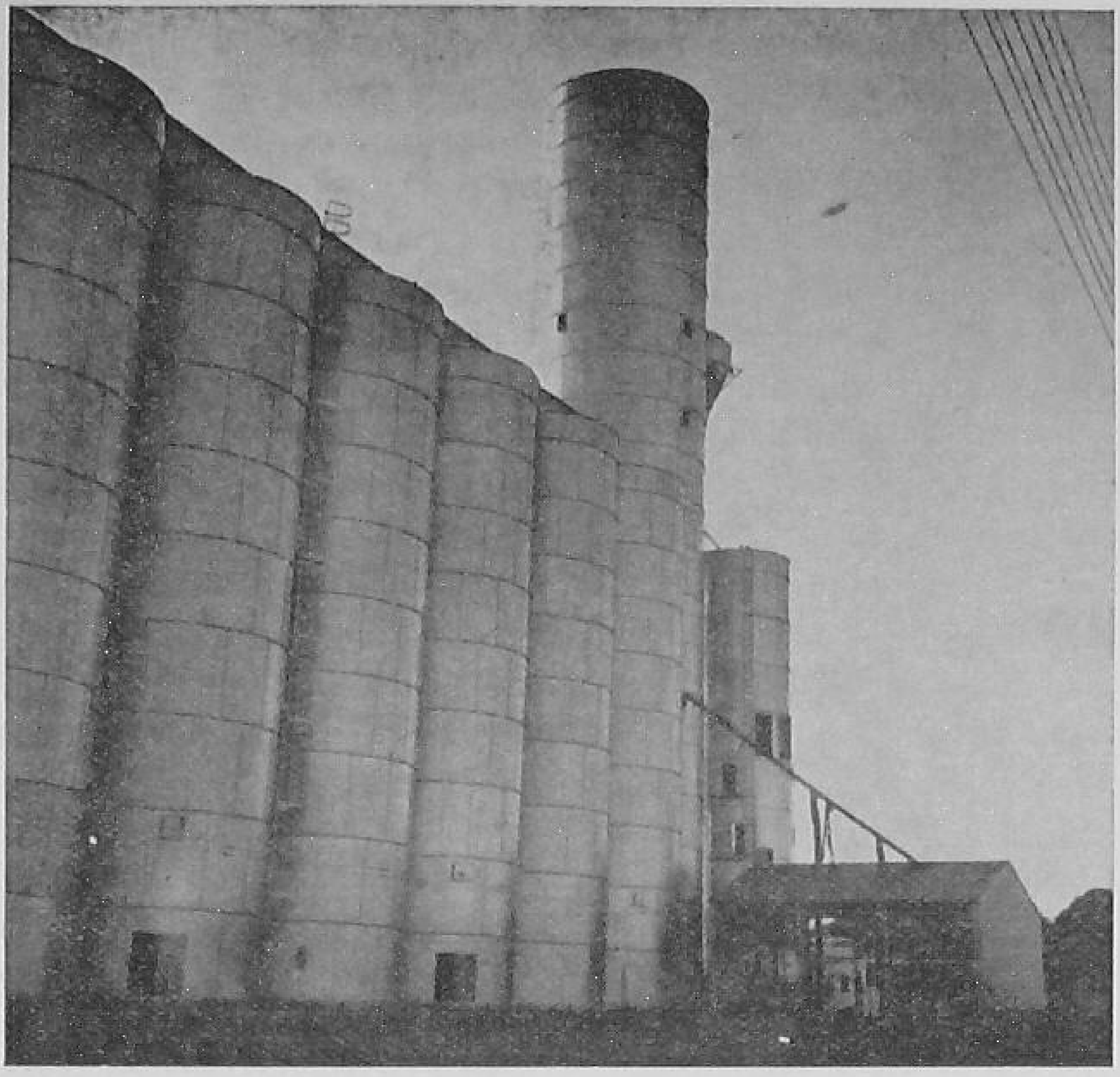
DEVOTION TO A CAUSE

It was again this determination and single-minded devotion to a cause which made the name of Chand Singh a household word in Bhutana, a village in Punjab not far from Nilokheri. Chand Singh is a Rohr, a tribe of cattle breeders. He was determined to cure his people of the nomadic and wayward life which they tended to lead. He knew that this could only be done by forcing the land, which consisted mostly of jungles and wasteland, to yield something to sustain the cattle and men. Chand Singh is still a long way from the dreamland of his desire but he has already succeeded in making the people of his village at least conscious of what they can do. Recently a drain was built to carry water from the marshy fields into the pond. The pond soon acquired a flourishing colony of fish. Some of the village elders were against selling the fish. But one night some of the young men led by Chand Singh himself netted a haul which fetched Rs. 500, which went straight into financing the cooperative society which they had been planning to build.

THE TWO MEN OF DULLEY

Our last village is Dulley, in the Ludhiana district of Punjab. In 1954, it was declared the best village in the block, in 1955 the best in the district; in 1956, the best in the State. Dulley owes this distinction to two men. Harnam Singh, the merchant, was the originator of what constitutes a revolution in the agricultural habits of the villagers. He encouraged people to build orchards and poultry farms to take the load off the meagre lands. He himself set an example by running a flourishing orchard and a poultry farm of his own. Mahinder Singh, the school master, owed no land and had no money, but he was a man with vision and drive and was, therefore, the obvious choice as a leader. Under his guidance, Dulley paved its streets, raised street lamps at all corners, built a community centre with a reading room, set up a weaving centre, and a primary school.

Bumper paddy crop through Japanese method



The white glistening tower

SILO-CUM-ELEVATOR AT HAPUR

As ONE approaches Hapur—one of the most flourishing and busiest grain marketing centres in U.P., about 40 miles from Delhi—a white glistening tower with its head raised into the sky becomes prominently visible. It is the top of the Silo-cum-Elevator—a plant for storage of foodgrains set up on the outskirts of the town by the Food Department of the Government of India. The 156 feet high elevator, known as the "headhouse", the dryer tank which abuts it and the 20 cylindrical structures known as silos, together with the outhouses and the masonry storage godowns, situated in close proximity to the silo-elevator plant, constitute a compact, self-contained, multipurpose unit. As integral parts of the unit are also the various mechanical contraptions for drying, cleaning, storing, weighing and bagging of foodgrains.

The silo-cum-elevator at Hapur, one of the two which India has received under the T.C.M. aid programme, was completed about six months back. Since June the plant has been doing its trial runs and in that process "receiving" foodgrains, mainly imported wheat, for storage.

The Government of India have been adopting a policy of building up stocks of foodgrains both for meeting the requirements of food deficit areas and for building up a Central food reserve. Since the entire quantity of foodgrains that goes into the building up of the reserve is not intended for immediate consumption, the situation has posed the problem of providing adequate and efficient storage facilities. The silo-cum-elevator provides an answer to the problem.

Revolutionary Method

Set in the heart of a big grain marketing centre, the silo-elevator at Hapur should provide practical lessons to grain dealers and merchants in the principles and methods of storage of foodgrains. It represents a refreshing and revolutionary contrast to the existing and traditionally followed methods of storage in ill-ventilated, dark and dingy godowns or underground *khattis* with grain filled in bags, where the loss and damage to the grain from insect pests, humidity and other factors may be anything from 5 to 30 per cent. The silo-elevator is also a new experiment in storing grain in bulk under sealed conditions of preservation.

The gigantic elevator or the "headhouse", which is the tallest of the shells, encases cleaning and weighing machines at three floors, the first at 94 feet, the second at 108 feet and the third at 136 feet above the ground level. The drier tank alongside the elevator, capable of handling

about 100 tons of grain per hour, dries wet grain by heated air produced by an oil burner. The cylindrical silo-bins, each 76 feet high and connected separately with the headhouse, have a capacity of 500 tons each, so that a total of 10,000 tons of grain could at any particular time be securely stocked therein.

Aerated and dry, the silo-bins are proof against the invasion of insect pests or other kinds of infestation. Topping the 20 silos, runs a long box-like steel structure in which provision is made for aeration and fumigation of the grain from time to time.

The power needed for the operation of the elevator and other parts of the plant is provided by two generators, specially set up as part of the plant, while a third generator serves as a stand-by in emergencies.

Working of Plant

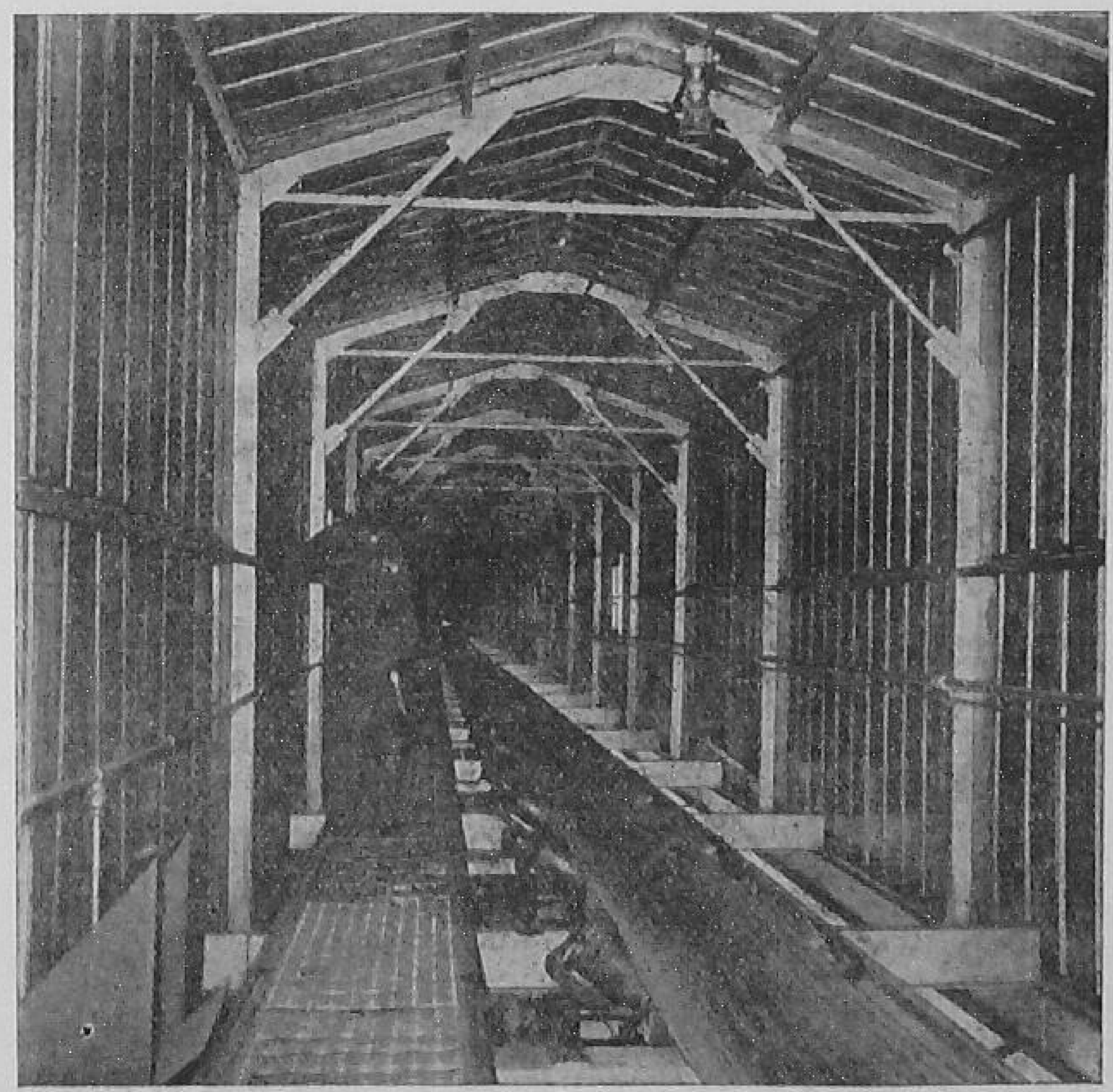
The silo-cum-elevator can be fed by grain brought to site by rail or by trucks. Separate arrangements are provided for either by a number of hoppers which drop the grain on to a conveyor belt, which carries it down to the elevator pit. There the grain is picked up by the elevators, which lift it to a height of 136 feet, and after cleaning it through the cleaning machines drop it on to another conveyor belt which conveys the grain into the various silo bins. The process of discharge from the last conveyor belt into the bins is accomplished by a *tripper* arrangement moving on an elevated trolly at a height of 80 feet, i.e., a few feet above the top of the silos.

Also provided is an automatic integrated weighing process which indicates the extent of the grain that has been fed into each bin by the automatic weighing machine in between the cleaner and the feeding belt. Each weigh measure discharge integrates itself on a counter, so that when the machine is run the total amount of grain passed gets automatically recorded and the fillings of the bins regulated.

As each silo bin is separate more than one type of grains can be stored. For instance, one bin can contain gram, another *jowar* and so on, and each type of grain can be handled independently with the same efficiency.

The offtake of grain from the silo is also accomplished by the reversible process whereby the grain flows from the bottom of the silo on to a belt conveyor which again feeds the elevator leg. The grain is then elevated to two buffer tanks known as "shipping tanks" from which it is passed through gravity chunks on to the automatic weighing and stitching machines. The grain after being weighed to a standard is filled into bags which are then mechanically stitched and sent out. It is also pos-

(*Continued on page* 23)



The conveyor belt

SMALL INDUSTRIES IN U.P.

SMALL INDUSTRIES, during the the last 10 years, have grown rapidly in U.P., a State which for long has been known for some of its industrial products and handicrafts, like woollen textiles, shoes, locks, carpets and brocades, brass-ware etc. This rapid growth has been responsible for the expansion of many existing industrial centres as well as the emergence of new ones at Ghaziabad, Meerut and Rampur.

Many of these industries had their origin in the area now known as West Pakistan. As an aftermath of partition of the country many people migrated to India; some of them settled in different parts of U.P. and restarted the industries that were flourishing in West Pakistan.

An example is the surgical instruments industry, which before 1947 was localised in Sialkot. Now there are several units manufacturing surgical instruments in Kanpur and Lucknow, most of them owned by displaced persons. The biggest of these units has an annual production of the value of Rs. 8 lakhs, and it exports its goods to several neighbouring countries, including Burma and Ceylon.

Displaced industrialists have also boldly tackled new lines of production. In this category are oil engines and oil expellers manufactured in Ghaziabad and Kanpur. In Ghaziabad alone there are fifteen manufacturers producing on an average 125 oil engines every month. Besides meeting internal requirements, these engines are exported to West Asia.

In fact, most of the new industrial centres, like Ghaziabad and Meerut, owe much of their importance to the initiative of displaced industrialists. The range of industrial items manufactured there is impressive. Some of the new lines deserve mention. Meerut has made a beginning in the manufacture of agricultural implements, tractor accessories, sugar machinery, steel furniture, sanitary fittings and sports goods.

The traditional industrial centres in the State have also struck out in new directions. Banaras, long famous for its Zari work and brocades, has given the lead in the manufacture of drilling machines, brass and copper wire and wire mesh. The last-named industry is an imaginative extension of the handloom industry. Instead of yarn, wire is used on the handloom for the production of wire mesh.

Among the new industrial products turned out in Banaras are drawing and surveying instruments, tooth and shaving brushes. Many of these items have a market abroad.

Agra, which has specialised in the manufacture of weights and measures, is now switching over to the production of weights and measures required under the new system. There is likely to be a big demand for this item when the metric system is enforced over the country.

A shoe making unit

An attempt is also being made to standardise certain industrial items for which U.P. has long been known. An instance is the lock industry of Aligarh, which employs 20,000 persons in about 340 units. A quality-marking scheme has been introduced to ensure that the customer gets a fair deal. Aligarh is now also producing quality cutlery.

Mention must also be made of the cycle industry. Though of recent origin, it is now among the well established industries. The important manufacturing centres are Kanpur, Lucknow, Banaras, Ghaziabad, Rampur and Allahabad. Over 1,50,000 cycles are assembled annually in the State.

A Banaras firm is now spe-

(*Continued on page 11*)

A DAY ON THE RAILWAYS

LET US assume that you retire to bed every night at 10 p.m. Between bed time yesterday and the same hour tonight, railwaymen in India would have run over 7,300 trains—4,400 passenger trains and 2,900 goods trains.

They run approximately the same number of trains every day—each day of the year. They have been doing this for a long time, and will go on doing so in the future. Only, the number of trains keeps on increasing as the second Five Year Plan makes progress.

Criss-crossing this great country with over 6,400 railway stations, these 1,300 trains cover distances aggregating 562,000 miles in each 24-hour period. This is equivalent to 25 journeys round the earth at equator—or 40,000 miles beyond the moon and back to earth.

Every single day, one per cent of the Indian people—over 3,800,000—travel by rail. This number represents the combined (1951) population of the following 15 Indian cities: Ajmer, Allahabad, Amritsar, Bhopal, Cuttack, Gwalior, Howrah, Jabalpur, Mysore, Patna, Poona, Rajkot, Tiruchinapalli and Trivandrum. Which means that trains in India carry, each day, all the men, women and children living in these 15 cities.

Do the Indian people travel much? During the year ended March 1958, they undertook rail journeys aggregating 120,000,000 miles daily. This is a mere 500 trips to the moon.

ONE CRORE MAUNDS

The goods trains carry a vast range of goods essential for the life of the community, totalling 362,000 tons or about 10,000,000 maunds daily.

Daily, the railways load about 23,000 wagons. Considering that these are loaded mostly during daylight hours, a wagon is loaded, somewhere in the country, every two seconds.

Railwaymen on the line and those working in yards, sheds, repair shops, workshops and "neck lines" have to maintain and operate a total of over 10,000 locomotives, 24,000 coaching vehicles and nearly 283,000 goods wagons.

YOUR SAFETY

The men in charge of the safe operation of trains have quite a job to do daily. They have to keep in constant good trim roughly 15,000,000 rails laid over 49,500 miles of railway track, nearly 100,000 points and crossings and about 30,000,000 fish plates—all round the clock, in fair weather and foul, in blazing summer or in freezing winter.

They have to be ever on the alert as 7,300 trains shoot in and out and pass through the country's 6,400 railway stations every 24 hours.

For the orderly movement of trains, these men have to lower signals and put them back to danger approximately 350,000 times daily. They have to set the points and then restore them to their normal position a minimum of 250,000 times daily. The operation is repeated thousands of times each day in marshalling yards and stations for shunting purposes.

Every moment that you sleep soundly, or are busy at work or at play, hundreds of trains are chugging along miles and miles of track over this vast country, carrying myriads of men and women to work or on holiday, transporting the vital goods that keep the Indian economy alive and throbbing.

SMALL INDUSTRIES IN U.P.

(Continued from page 10)

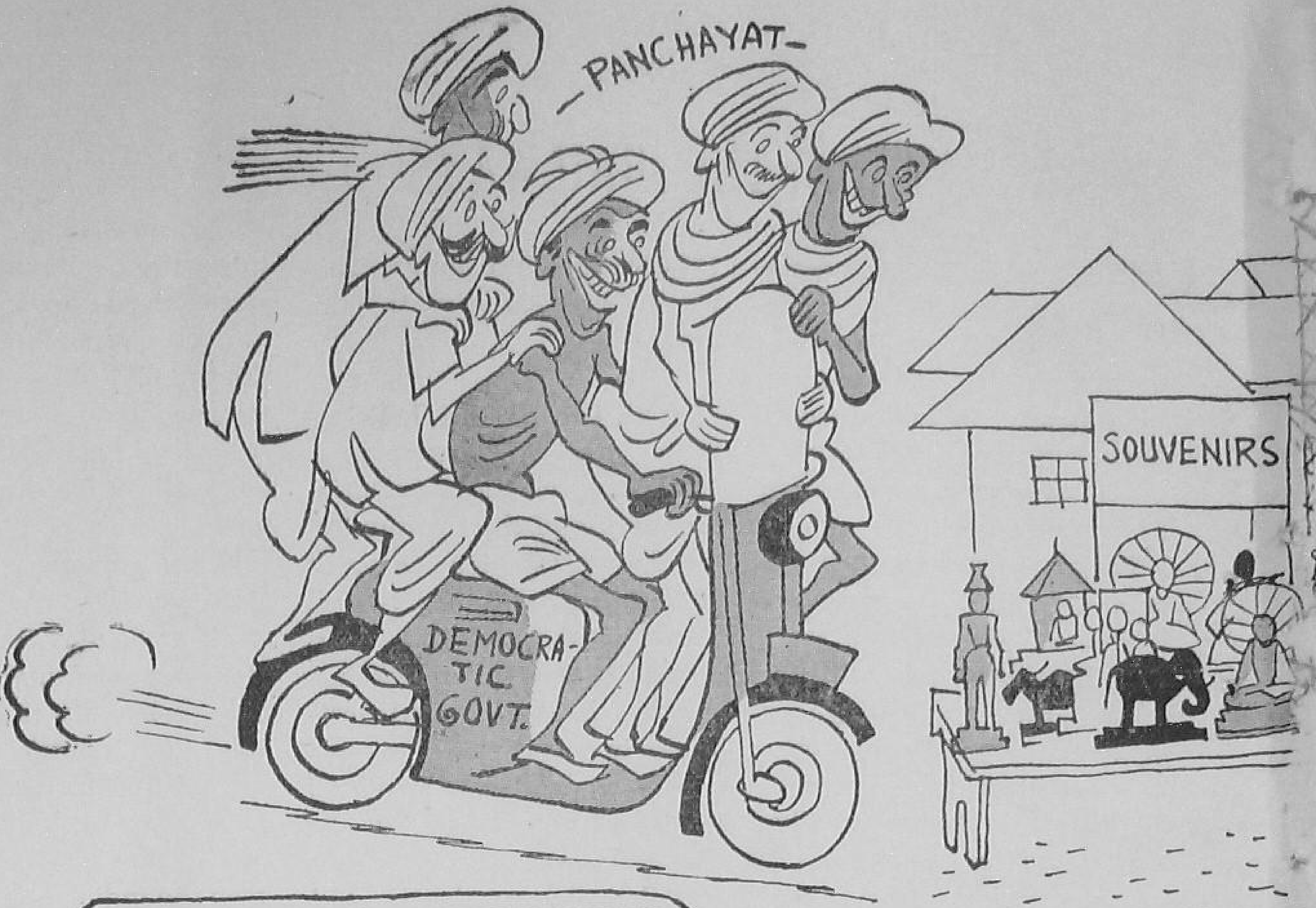
cialising in the manufacture of cycle bells. Besides catering to the home market, the firm exports the item to a number of foreign countries.

Part of the credit for the rapid development of small industries should go to the Government, which has launched 28 schemes for the purpose at a cost of about Rs. five crore.

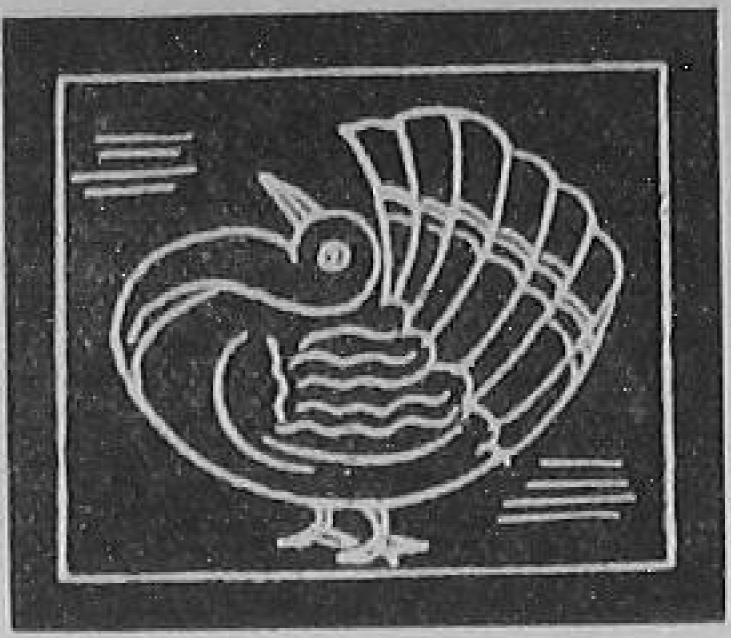
The Government is paying increasing attention to the financial requirements of new industries. A sum of Rs. 86 lakh has already been disbursed during the Plan period under the Loans and Grants Scheme. Besides, the U.P. Financial Corporation has advanced loans aggregating Rs. 83.39 lakh to small entrepreneurs.

M A R C H of T I M E

AS SEEN BY OUR CARTOONIST



ODEL' VILLAGE
"THIS 'ILLAGE IS A MUST' FOR V.I.Ps!"
CAN'T GET PURE MILK OR GHEE IN THE VILLAGE EVER SINCE THEY MADE THAT ROAD!
TOWN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
PEDIGREE BIRD, I BET!



President's Awards

We give below brief pen-pictures of some of the distinguished men and women of India who received President's awards on October 29, this year. This is the second and last instalment of the pen-pictures. The first of the series was published in the November issue.
—Editor.

Padma Shri

Shri Punamalai Ekambaranathan

Inventor of the Ambar Charkha, Shri Punamalai Ekambaranathan, 38, comes from a poor agricultural family of a small village in the Madras State.

Spinning was a passion with Shri Ekambaranathan since his school days and he always dreamt of inventing a charkha which would give an individual more yarn in a single process of spinning. In 1944, he invented a new kind of charkha with one spindle.

Four years later, he added another spindle to the Charkha to produce a hank of yarn every hour. Persistent and patient research and experiments rewarded Shri Ekambaranathan when he invented a four-spindle charkha, now named Ambar Charkha, after him.

Shrimati Nargis Dutt

Fifteen years ago, Shrimati Nargis Dutt, a leading Indian

cinema actress, made her debut in "Taqdeer". Since then she has acted as a heroine in 50 films, the recent one being "Mother India" for which she has received this year the Clare and Karlovy Vary Film Festival Awards.

Shrimati Nargis Dutt, who has contributed greatly to the development of film art in India, has travelled widely abroad and was a member of the Indian Film Delegation to the U.K., U.S.A., and Japan and later a member of the Film Delegation to the U.S.S.R.

Through her acting and writings Shrimati Dutt has helped in raising the Indian cinema in the people's esteem. She is also associated with philanthropic work.

Shrimati Fathema Ismail

Born in a family with traditions of social work and national service, Shrimati Fathema Ismail is herself a social worker of great distinction and is a pioneer in the field of education for handicapped children. The hospital for orthopaedic treatment started by her some years ago in Bombay has now developed into a fine well-equipped institution.

Shrimati Ismail has frequently been invited abroad to study the welfare of cripples. She attended the Second International Poliomyelitis Congress at Copenhagen and the Fifth World Congress of the International Society for the Welfare of Cripples at Stockholm in 1951.

Shri Satyajit Ray

Shri Satyajit Ray, 37, attained national and inter-

national recognition with his maiden picture, "Pather Panchali" of which he also wrote the screen play. His other picture "Aparajita" won him the award of "Golden Lion of St. Mark" at the Venice Film Festival in 1957. His films are hailed for their human appeal, simplicity of expression and sincerity of inspiration

Shri Ray has been a pupil of Shri Nand Lal Bose at Shanti Niketan for three years and before joining the film field he was in an advertising firm.

Shri Moturi Satyanarayana

Shri Moturi Satyanarayana the General Secretary of the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, has been a very prominent figure in organising Hindi prachar in the South from a very long time.

Shri Satyanarayana is a social worker. He joined the national movement in 1920. He has been a member of the Constituent Assembly, the Madras Legislative Council and the Expert Translation Committee for translating the Constitution of India. He is now a member of the Rajya Sabha.

Shri Satyanarayana is Chairman of the Andhra University's Board of Studies in Hindi and Hindi Examination Committee, New Delhi, and editor of two monthlies, Dakshina Bharat and Hindi Prashar Samachar.

Shri Shambhoo Maharaj

Shri Shambhoo Maharaj belongs to a family with traditions of dancing. For his pre-eminence in the Kathak dancing he received an Akadami Award in 1955. He is also an accomplished classical musician.

Shri Shambhoo Maharaj started his career as a dancer at the age of 18 and has given performances all over the country. In 1936, he was honoured with the title of Natawri Nritya Samrat at a music and dance conference held in Dehra Dun.

Since 1955, Shri Shambhoo Maharaj has been working as the Head of the Dance Department of the Bharatiya Kala Kendra College, New Delhi.

Dr. Benjamin Peary Pal

Dr. Benjamin Peary Pal has made significant contribution in the field of plant breeding particularly in relation to the breeding of rust resistant wheats. He has also carried out a great deal of research work on potatoes, tobacco and some other crops and vegetables.

Besides plant breeds, Dr. Pal has taken active interest in the science of genetics and has helped to found the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding. In view of his contributions to the development of genetics, he was elected an honorary member of the Genetics Society of Japan. Since 1933 he has been associated with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute of which he is now Director.

Dr. Pal has published over 100 scientific papers on plant breeding and genetics of crop plants. He is a Fellow of the Linvean Society of London, the National Institute of Sciences of India and the Indian Botanical Society.

Dr. Lakshminarayanapuram Ananthakrishnan Ramdas

Dr. Lakshminarayanapuram Ananthakrishnan Ramdas is a pioneer in the development of agricultural meteorology in India. He has been responsible for the production of "Crop Weather Calendars" giving the life history of the principal crops in each district and their weather environment.

Dr. Ramdas was appointed Deputy Director-General of Observatories in 1953. He carried out important researches on various aspects of the South West Monsoon developing a new formula for predicting its "date of establishment" along the West Coast. After retirement, Dr. Ramdas joined the National Physical Laboratory as Head of the Division of Heat and Power. He has recently

started important laboratory investigations on the fundamental aspects of "evaporation control".

Dr. Ramdas has published a large number of research papers. He is a member of many international scientific bodies and led the India Delegation to the IX Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics at Brussels in 1951.

SANSKRIT SCHOLARS

Pandit Giridhar Sharma Chaturvedi

Pandit Giridhar Sharma Chaturvedi, 77, is an Acharya in the Indian Philosohical School and has done research work in the Vedanta philosophy.

He has written several books on Vedic and Puranic Literature and a Bhashya (commentary) on Raghuvamsa. In recognition of his scholarly attainments, Pandit Chaturvedi was awarded the title of Mahamahopadhyaya by the Government and Vachaspati by the Banaras University. For a long time he headed the Oriental and Theology Departments. He has also been a member of the Executive Councils of the Punjab and Rajasthan Universities.

Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane

An eminent literateur in Sanskrit, Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane, 78, has written several books, including the Histories of Sanskrit Poetics and of Dharmashastra. His field of studies extend to philosophy and history as well. For his esteemed position in the literary field, he has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha.

Dr. Kane was President of the All India Oriental Conference held at Nagpur in 1946, President, Indian History Conference at Waltair, 1953 and the Indian Government's representative at the International Congress of Orientalists held at Paris, at Istanbul in 1951 and at Cambridge in 1954. From 1947 to 1949, he was the Vice-Chancellor of Bombay University.

The Sahitya Akadami awarded a prize of Rs. 5,000 to Dr. Kane for bringing out the best work on Sanskrit literature during the years 1953-56.

Shri Sreepada Krishnamurty Sastry

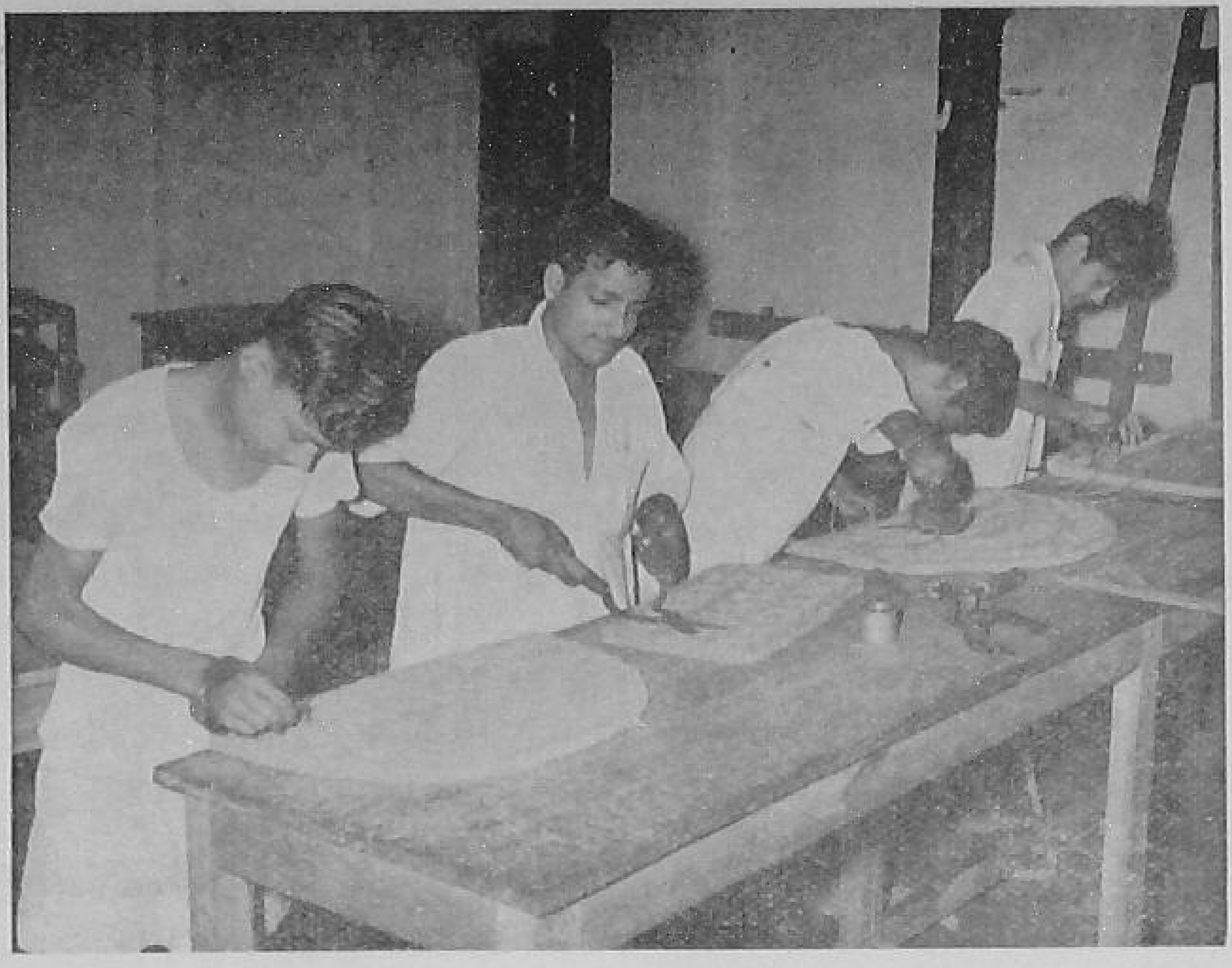
Ninety-three-year-old Shri Sreepada Krishnamurty Sastry, Asthana Kavi (Poet Laureate) of Andhra Pradesh, is a great scholar both in Sanskrit and Telugu. His pre-eminent position in the literary field had earned him the title of Mahamahopadhaya.

Shri Krishnamurty Sastry was only 16 when he began writing poetry in Telugu. He has written about 225 books in Telugu poetry and has translated the Mahabharata, Ramayana and Bhagavatha into Telugu verse. He has performed Ashtavadhanam and Satavadhanam in various parts of the country.

Shri Ramchandra Varma

Shri Ramchandra Varma is a well-known Hindi Scholar who has made a close study of Urdu, Bengali, Marathi, Gujerati and English from the linguistic point of view. Shri Varma's works, more than 100, specialize in two fields: Bhasha (language) and the Shabdarth (meaning and implication of words). He is also an author and editor of several Hindi Koshas.

Shri Varma was only 14 when he started writing and translating in Hindi for the Bharat Jeevan Press. For several years he was associated with the compilation of a dictionary by the Kashi Nagari Pracharini Sabha.



Training Centres For Handicrafts

SCHEMES FOR setting up 58 centres for training in various handicrafts in the country have been approved so far during the current financial year by the Government of India on the recommendations of the All India Handicrafts Board.

Grants totalling over Rs. 7.52 lakhs have already been sanctioned by the Central Government to the State Governments for implementing 41 of these schemes. Further assistance will be provided for the remaining 17 schemes.

Madras State will have seven training centres, one each for weaving of blankets, carpets and druggets; for weaving of carpets and druggets out of sen hemp; for art metal industry; for bell metal industry; for the manufacture of fancy leather goods; for sculpture, and for the manufacture of aloe fibre products.

Bihar will have eight training centres, two of which will also be production centres. Three centres are for calico printing and for toy making. Other centres are for the manufacture of dolls, baskets, glass bangles, papier machie goods and lacquerware and lac painted goods.

In Andhra Pradesh, three training centres will be for toy making, including one for Kondapalli toys at Kondapalli. The other training centres will be for ivory and horn industry and for basket making. Mysore has a scheme for establishing three training centres and for providing aid to the Vocational School of Arts and Crafts at Dharwar. The training centres are for brassware, for rattan crafts and for wooden toys.

Uttar Pradesh will have four training centres for bidri industry, ivory industry, wooden toy industry and cane and bamboo industry.

Bombay has been sanctioned a grant for setting up training centres for sen hemp fibre industry, for mat weaving and for the manufacture of toys and dolls in NES Blocks.

West Bengal will have a training centre for hand block printing, a production centre for artistic durries and three mobile centres for lacquerware. Two more training centres, one for horn industry and another for mat weaving, are to be set up at a later date. The two Assam schemes for which a grant has been sanctioned are for setting up training centres for dolls and toy making and cane and bamboo industry.

Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan have one scheme each for which aid has been sanctioned so far. In Madhya Pradesh the centre will be at Indore for dyeing and printing. In Orissa it will be for filligree-cum-horn industry, while in Punjab it will be at Palampur for carpet weaving. In Rajasthan financial assistance is to be provided to the Artistic Craft Training Institute in Jaipur.

HOW TO ORGANISE A YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

Prem Parkash Singh
B.D.O., Faridabad

THE FUTURE of a nation depends very much on the way its children are brought up. This important aspect of national development known as Child Welfare has been given a place of importance in our National Plans. In the cities and towns child welfare activities exist in some form or other but that is not the case with villages, where majority of the children live. It was therefore, thought necessary to extend child welfare activities to our villages through the Community Project Scheme.

Organisation of Children and Young Farmers' Clubs are important items of Social Education and Agricultural Programme of the C.D. Blocks. The programme aims at improving the habits of children and adolescents, infusing in them a sense of self-confidence and dignity of labour, development of their mental and physical health and last but not the least to make them feel that they are an important part of the community.

The programme is divided into two parts depending on the age of the children. The one for children upto the age of 12 years differs greatly from that meant for the age-group of 13-18 years. But the most important thing in the execution of the programme is the active co-operation of the parents and the village elders at every stage.

While drawing up the programme for a village, the local conditions obtaining there should be taken into account. Two of the important items of the programme are the Bal Sabhas intended for youngsters upto the age of 12 years, and Young Farmers' Club for those between 12 to 18 years of age. The success of these two institutions depends on how the villagers view them. At present these two institutions do not figure in the village life, naturally the result is not as encouraging as it should be. Unless the villagers consider them as their own and extend their wholehearted co-operation, the child welfare programme will not succeed. So it is essential for those in charge of execution of the programme to see that it is woven into the social pattern of the village, the villagers consider them as their own, and the young members of these institutions are made to feel that they have got an important role to play in the welfare of the village.

BAL SABHAS

As to the programme itself, it depends on how the children like it. In order to create an interest among the children, it is essential for the organisers to stock these centres of child activity with equipments like cheap musical instruments and sports goods, which generally find favour with the youngsters. Once the children start coming to the centres the subsequent steps of activities like introduction of selected village games, folk songs of the area, story telling, talks and singing competition should be taken up in a systematic way. The Bal Sabhas will be at their best, when the young members have enthusiastically taken up all these activities. The time then will be considered ripe for going in for a children's park. The village leaders should be made to take interest in the idea, and the Panchayat be prevailed upon to allot a suitable piece of land for the purpose as well as equip it with such common items like swing and slide. With the help of the members a hedge round the plot of land should be put up as well as flower-beds laid out.

YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

Similar is the approach with regard to the Young Farmers' Club. To start with, the main activity should be confined to sports activities, and subsequently followed up with recreational ones. The most important activity of the institution—the selection of projects meant for the members and their allocation—should be taken up only after it has

been found that the young ones consider the club as their own and are prepared to take up the work which will benefit the club.

It is usual in most of the villages that games and sports form the main and the only activity of the club. Besides, its membership is mostly confined to the school-going boys. This approach is entirely wrong. In order that the club would be truly representative, young boys whether they are school-going or not, should as far as possible be brought into the fold of the club membership. While selecting individual projects like poultry-keeping, kitchen gardening, fruit tree gardening, improved cultivation, calf-rearing, cottage industries like bamboo and cane-goods making etc., the consent of the parents as well as the Panchayat should be obtained, and before allotment the young members should be taken into confidence and consulted. The S.E.O. and the Agricultural Extension officer's advice should be sought while selecting the Young Farmers and the projects they are to take up for execution. At the time of execution it should be seen that the Young Farmers get necessary help from their parents, the Panchayat as well as the Gram Sevak. The Extension officer (Agriculture) should help the members by paying frequent visits to their clubs. The school teacher, wherever available, should be made responsible for the successful functioning of the club.

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

The members should be made to realise that so far as the finance of the Club is concerned they have a responsibility, and they should be encouraged to collect funds for the club, however small they may be. Similarly each member should maintain an account of the Project he is executing. A meeting of the club should be held once a week, under the chairmanship of a member elected for the purpose on the day. Each member should have a note book wherein the full details of the Project allotted to him and its working are to be recorded. The teacher and the Gram Sevak should help the members in maintaining the record. Seeds, fruit plants, poultry birds and such other requirements of the projects may be supplied from Block funds on subsidy basis. To develop a sense of oneness amongst the members it is advisable that each club should have its uniform and flag.

Police Participation?

The Editor,
Gram Sevak.

Sir,

I understand that in some Block villages in Madras State the Police Department is actively co-operating in Community Development activities like constructing roads, Panchayat-ghars and school buildings etc. The Policemen have joined the villagers in "Shramdan" to build the above mentioned things. So far, we find practically all the Departments of the State are associated with our Programme except the Police, and Madras plans to bring them into our fold. It is really a good idea, and should be adopted in all the States. The participation of Police Department in the Programme, will remove much of the ill-feeling that the villagers have against this Department, as well as make the Policeman know his duties towards the village. The Police Department, I feel, can help the Programme best by imparting training in discipline and drill to the members of "Balmandals", "Young Farmers' Clubs" and "Youth Clubs," as well as train the villagers to work jointly in times of emergency like fire, flood or any other natural calamity. The Policemen are generally well-up in games and sports. They can therefore teach the youngsters and the youth of our villages the correct techniques, and help them to become good sportsmen and players.

Rampur,
1-12-1958.

Yours etc.
Ram Sahai

GET TO WORK

Deep, deeper still, in the pit
Lies smouldered fire,
Sullen, vacant smile may fit
Unfulfilled desire,
People basking may be hit,
If they stand and stare,
Come and meet, let us greet
People in disfavour.

Plan is there to save the nation
From the volcano,
Get ahead to work the plan
Without much ado,
Lead the farmers fill the barn
With a constant flow,
Keep the vision, imagination
Of the guiding goal.

A single death from starvation
Is a blow to nation,
A single life in stagnation
Is a sure ignition,
A single man bound by chain
Of spurious custom
Sure foredooms the destination
Of a steady nation.

Let the power of man and nature
May be used by man,
Take to science in mature manner
As much as we can,

Make the life bright and sweet
In a measure fair,
Come and meet, let us greet
People in disfavour.

Satya Narayan Purohit

Minor Schemes and Major Problem

The Editor,
Gram Sevak.

Sir,

Of late much talk is going on in the Block headquarters about paying greater attention to minor irrigation works and to go in for more of them. As an explanation it is being said that minor irrigation works, which cost less and produce results quicker than the big projects, hold the key to rapid increase in food production. Without in anyway questioning the utility of minor irrigation works one would very much like to see that the existing ones like private tanks, "Kuhls" and water channels are properly maintained, and those which have gone out of use either due to silting or weakening of the embankments, renovated and repaired. In the four southern States of Kerala, Madras, Mysore and Andhra it is reported that about 2,50,000 tanks have gone out of use for lack of desilting! Similar is the case with a large number tanks in the possession of big landlords and jagirdars of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and those belonging to "Gauntias" in Orissa and landlords in West Bengal. In Jammu and Kashmir, and hilly tracts of the Punjab and Uttar Pradesh many "Kuhls" and water channels have met with the same fate. The result has been that despite the best efforts, country's food production has not risen appreciably.

In order that the country's minor irrigation system is kept in order, it is essential that the same amount of attention should be paid towards the maintenance of the existing ones as to the new ones that have either been constructed or proposed to be constructed. This calls for an effective planning spread over 4 to 5 years. A drive for renovation and repair of the existing minor irrigation works should start forthwith, with an aim to cover atleast 20% of them each year. Each Block may be asked to prepare a list of such works in its area, and an approximate estimate of the finance required for each of them. The final decision as to the work to be taken up should be made after consultation with the Block Development Committee. Help and cooperation of the Panchayat and the villagers should be obtained to the maximum degree in the execution of such works.

Yours etc.
Ramnath.
Block Development Officer

Dangerous Hospitality

Sir,

I learn that in Mysore State, Gram Sevaks are being supplied with cookers to cook food for themselves during their usual tours in the villages of their beat. Whoever has thought of this procedure must be congratulated for his deep insight, as it saves the Gram Sevak from many embarrassing situations.

We the Gram Sevaks have to be out on tour for more than 15 days every month. Our night halts in the course of these tours are at least 15 to 20 a month. During these tours, we depend for our food on the hospitality of the villager, and invariably our host belong to the well-to-do section of the village community. The hospitality of our villagers is proverbial. They go all out to make us comfortable during our short stays. But at times it becomes embarrassing for both of us. Besides there is an inherent danger in this. Despite the best of intention, our host's role in the village politics often makes us appear partisan to those who are opposed to him. As a result we are unnecessarily suspected and our work suffers.

There is another aspect of this hospitality which needs to be taken into account. There is a feeling current in the villages — particularly amongst the poorer sections— that the C.D. programme benefits those who are "high-up in the ladder", and the poorer sections do not get a square deal. Our brief stays in the villages as the guest of a "high-up" adds weight to the prevalent wrong notion. As a result the less previleged sections, at times, are not prepared to believe us. This makes our position awkward.

In order to avoid all these untoward situations, allay the current misgiving and faciliate our work, it is felt by many of us that the Gram Sevak during his tours should depend as little as possible on the hospitality of the villagers so far as his food is concerned and should cook his own food. For that purpose they should be supplied with cookers, as is being done in Mysore. I will be grateful if some of my friends in Mysore, kindly supply me with details of this new procedure through your columns.

Hansi (Punjab) Yours etc.
25-11-58 J. D. Bhyana

Modified Pay Scales

Sir,

In Mysore State Revised Pay Scales was announced in November 1956, after formation of the new Mysore State, to help the poor Govt. Servants, and to get benefits. But actually it is more beneficial to the Higher Officials than to the low paid staff. Regarding the scale of Matriculate Gram Sevak, the scale of pay was Rs. 45-5-100-10-150, in the Old Mysore. After revision the pay scale is Rs. 50-3-80-4-120-5-150 for new Mysore. This announcement damped the enthusiasm and spirit of the Gram Sevak. It was like pouring salt on an open wound. In the old scale, a Gram Sevak could have reached his maximum in 16 years, but as per the new scale it will take 26 years for him to reach the maximum. Is this not enough to curb his enthusiasm? In this situation Govt. expects him to be the friend, philospher, and guide to the villagers and he has to work with great zeal after having been curbed on all sides. This is the reward given to the Key man of the programme.

Let not these words make any body angry. These are the grievances of the Gram Sevaks in the field who are devoting all their time to social work. And he has a right to put forth his grievances before the Government as a citizen of India.

I hope this will be considered by the Government and the poor Gram Sevak who is working at village level will be helped early.

Yours etc.
3-12-58 M. M. Swamy,
Kolar Dist. Gram Sevak

CHILDREN AND ART

THE FIVE YEAR Plans are devoted to raising the standard of living of the people in various fields such as food, clothing, housing, etc. But no plan can be really successful if it ignores the human element and does not provide measures for the development of the community in the realm of education, culture and art, because fine arts, besides their recreational value, can also act as a medium for social cohesion and discipline in the community.

To enable arts and aesthetics to play their due role in the life of the community, therefore, special attention is being paid to their development under the Community Development programme.

Most of the Social Education Organisers' training centres have been sponsoring child art activities in the villages around the Development Blocks where they are situated.

Reports relating to work done in the field of art and culture in the various States are encouraging.

MYSORE

Mysore is the likely venue of a workshop, on exhibitions through indigenous material, to be held some time in February, 1959.

PUNJAB

The personnel of the Art Wing of the Social Education Organisers' training centre at Nilokheri regularly go round to the neighbouring villages with material for painting, clay work, toy making, etc. A museum wing has been established at the S.E.O. training centre. Two five-day art classes for the school teachers of the nearby villages were conducted at the Social Education Organisers' training centre at Nilokheri. Classes for children are conducted in the villages themselves, in co-operation with the village school teachers.

An exhibition of child art, including paintings, clay models and toys, was organized by the Nilokheri block authorities in village Poojam on November 14. The seminar on arts and aesthetics held at Nilokheri in April, 1958 aroused a good deal of interest in art and aesthetics in the villages surrounding Nilokheri.

UTTAR PRADESH

An upper-primary school in Indaurabagh village, near Bakshi-ka-Talab, is an important centre of activity of children's art. A beginning has been made with toy-making, clay modelling and sculpture. About 32 children are taking active part in these activities.

WEST BENGAL

The S.E.O. training centre at Belur Math imparts training in child art activities, such as painting, toy-making, paper-cutting, modelling and other craft work, in active co-operation with the village school teachers and the people in the villages. Steps are also being taken to intensify child art activities in villages around Vishwabharati S.E.O. Training Centre at Sriniketan.

BOMBAY

One block in each of the six divisions of Bombay State is being selected for intensive work in arts and aesthetics.

The S.E.O. Training Centre at Baroda organized an art-cum-cultural festival on November 5. Child art exhibitions and competitions formed an important part of the festival.

The Art Wing of the S.E.O. T.C. at Gargoti has arranged tours by the Block personnel to the nearby villages, to discuss with the villagers and school teachers the possibilities of starting a child art exhibition.

MADRAS

Problems and techniques of

creative art were discussed at an artists' seminar held at S.E.O.T.C., Gandhigram, recently. Early this year, it is proposed to hold an orientation training camp for rural artists.

An art festival, including an exhibition of child art and folk dances and songs, was organised at Narasingapuram village in Dindigul Block on November 20.

RAJASTHAN

The Rajasthan State Government, in collaboration with the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal, has organized four training camps for selected rural artists. It has been estimated that about 100 artists were given training and guidance in various folk arts, so as to sponsor such activities in their respective areas.

Talented rural artists were selected by the Principal of Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal. The team toured various parts of the State and gave performances of folk arts, such as dances, dramas and folk songs, etc.

A team of puppeteers has also been selected and given two months' training in village Bedla. The team has used new themes for performances in the various blocks under contracts with the State Government.

SILO-CUM-ELEVATOR AT HAPUR

(*Continued from page 9*)

sible to take the grain in bulk without feeding the bags, when the known quantity of weighed grain can be directly fed to either road trucks or rail cars from the buffer shipping tanks.

A railway siding branching off from the yard of the Hapur main station has been provided to the storage premises, to facilitate grain being brought in by rail right to the silo or the storage godowns, and its being taken out, if and when so required.

Cost of Equipment

The cost of the silo equipment gifted by T.C.M. is approximately Rs. 20 lakhs and the Government of India have spent another Rs. 11 lakhs in providing the foundation, the basement and in erection costs. This works out to about Rs. 300|- per ton of storage capacity.

It might be mentioned in passing that in an earlier experiment to provide a silo-cum-elevator at Lyallpur in the late twenties of this century, the cost was estimated at about Rs. 5 per maund or a little less than half of the present-day cost. The Lyallpur experiment was not quite a success because the cost of storage per maund was about 2½ times the then cost price of the grain, whereas, in the context of today's foodgrain prices the cost per maund of storage in the silo-elevator will be only about 75 per cent of the cost price of the grain.

It may not always be possible for the Government of India to utilise the entire storage capacity of the silos for storage of Government grain. The storage space available can in such a contingency be rented out to private traders and merchants or State Governments for grain storage. Some enquiries in this connection have already started coming in.

The silo-cum-elevator as a novel experiment in food storage can add to public knowledge of storage methods. Those interested in seeing it and understanding its working can do so after prior appointment with the officers on duty.

It is proposed to establish a Foodgrains Storage Training Institute at the plant site where officers, who will be in charge of storage godowns in different places, would receive training in modern storage methods.

PAPER MANUFACTURE IN KASHMIR

I. M. Bhatnagar

THERE WAS a time when the writing of manuscripts in Kashmir was done on birch bark leaves, cut to size. Such books belong to the Hindu period and are written in Sanskrit.

It is said that the art of paper manufacture originated in China and was introduced in Kashmir about the middle of the 15th century. The industry was located at Ganderbal and Vicharnag. At the former place, pulp was produced by pounding the raw material in a mill driven by power; while at the latter place, the pulp transferred from Ganderbal was processed into paper. The raw materials used were cotton rags, hemp, saz (a root) and rice-starch.

The indigenous paper, by virtue of its strength and durability, was mostly used in making Bahi-Khatas (ledgers) by business men. The import of cheap paper dealt a death blow to this industry. During the World War II, when paper became scarce, the paper manufacture was revived. But it was a temporary stimulus and soon after the normalcy was restored, the manufacturers had also to wind up their business.

The Centre works under the State Industries Department. Its average monthly production is of the value of Rs. 700|-. During the First Plan period, the Centre produced goods worth Rs. 2,700/- and provided work to 30 workers who received Rs. 1,500/- as wages. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs. 2,000/- to the Centre in 1955-56. The Centre is training a number of persons in the art of paper manufacture, and is expected to be a nucleous organisation for future paper industry in the State.

A few experts are of the opinion that manufacture of Newsprint can also be undertaken in the State. The State Government had recently invited Dr. Bhatt of Dehra Dun Forest Research Institute in this connection. There is also scope for the manufacture of butter paper within the State. Butter paper is mostly manufactured in Travancore which imports material from outside. In Kashmir State, however, the fir used for packing cases is 'gold'. It can be used for manufacturing rayon and butter paper.

In his famous book 'Regional Planning in India' Dr. R. Balkrishna, pointed out: "There is a great scope for developing paper industry in Kashmir and Assam. The industry is amenable to split in its location. The manufacture of wood pulp can be undertaken near the forest area and subsequent process at places near consuming centres". The State Government has recently given a thought to reviving the old art of paper manufacture.

In the State's First Five Year Plan, Rs. 25.50 lakhs were allotted for Cottage Industries including Emporium Schemes. A number of Demonstration-cum-Production Schemes were then formulated. One of the Schemes related to the establishment of a Hand Made Paper Centre at Miransahib, a suburb of Jammu.

The Scheme was given effect to in the year 1954-55 when necessary arrangements were made for equipment and accessories. The Centre manufactured blotting papers which were fairly appreciated in the market. The Centre latter on took to production of writing paper, card-board and file covers also. Recently experiments were conducted by the centre in making of card-board from Balian grass. The experiments yielded good results. To start the manufacture on a commercial scale, arrangements are being made to install necessary machinery at the Centre.

Learning a new job

First Lessons

Printed by the Production Officer, United Press, Delhi-8, and Published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi—8, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development.

Regd. D—877